

Serial No. 09/965,558  
Atty. Doc. No. 01P17802US

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-24 are pending in this application. The disclosure and claim 1 are objected to because of informalities identified by the Examiner. Claims 1-7 and 9-24 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, because the specification is not enabling for the process as claimed without a sinterable binder. Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, because the specification is not enabling for the process as claimed without a fibrous material. Claims 1-7 and 9-18 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, because the specification is not enabling for the process as claimed without removing the shaped material from the mold.

The specification has been amended herein to correct the spacing errors identified by the Examiner. Several punctuation errors have also been corrected in the same paragraph.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to correct the informalities identified by the Examiner, to add a limitation of a sinterable binder, to add a limitation of first permeable extracting membrane material structure, and to add a step of removing the insulating material from between the first and second permeable structures. The applicant has selected the phrase "first permeable extracting membrane material structure" rather than the term "fibrous material" as suggested by the Examiner. Support for this terminology can be found on page 13, line 23. These changes overcome each of the objections and rejections of claim 1, thereby placing claim 1 and its dependent claims in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 has been amended herein to add a limitation of a sinterable binder and to add a limitation of removing the matrix material and hollow spheres from the slurry chamber. These changes overcome each of the rejections of claim 12, thereby placing claim 12 and its dependent claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 4 are cancelled herein.

The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter this amendment and reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the amended application including claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-24 to allowance.

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The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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